Pollution in coal belts

164. SHRI GUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a press newsitem captioned "pollution weaking havoc in coal belt" as reported in the Statesman dated 9th July, 1994.

(b) if so, whether more than one lakh people living near the coal belts are suffering from respiratory diseases and TB;

(c) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government propose to take any concrete steps to check pollution near coal belt in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The dust from the coal fields could cause respiratory diseases and TB. However, the Ministry of Environment and Forests does not have any conclusive study report indicating the number of people suffering from respiratory disease and TB in the coal belt.

(d) and (e) Steps taken to check pollution in the coal belts, *inter-alia*, are as follows:—

(i) Effluent and emmision standards have been prescribed.

(ii) Ambient Air and water Quality Standards have been evolved.

(iii) A network of ambient air and water quality monitoring stations has been set up.

(iv) Mines have been directed to comply with the prescribed standards on a time bound basis.

(v) Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and shifting of polluting industries from congested areas.

(vi) In order to prevent industrial pollution in future and to facilitate sustainable development, the Government has made it compulsory for major specified projects to have environmental clearance based on impact assessment and associated studies prior to site selection.

(vii) regular monitoring of the ambient air and water quality around the area for regulating the emission/discharges from various coal fields, coke oven plants, soft coke plants, briquette plants and other coal based industries.

(viii) All the coal washeries have been directed by the State Pollution Control Boards to recycle their effluents with the ultimate aim of zero discharge;

(ix) Thermal power plants have been directed by the State Pollution Control Boards not to discharge ash slurry/effluent into the rivers.

Norms for hunting/Fishing etc dyn

165. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have stipulated separate norms for hunting/fishing etc. for the State guests and the common people;

(b) whether it is a fact that one of the State Ministers was apprehended while fishing in prohibited area of Corbett Park;

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take against such offenders; and

(d) whether it is a fact that large number of Government officials have been violating the prohibitive norms, in game, reserved and national parks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) A report is awaited from the State Government.

(d) No, Sir.

Extinction of Oliver Riley Turtles

166. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Oliver Riley turtles are on the verge of extinction;

(b) whether it is a fact that these turtles had breeding site at Bhitar Kanika Sanctuary;

(c) whether it is also a fact that large portion of these breeding sites has been converted for commercial use; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that World Wildlife Fund has filed a suit to preserve these species?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The State Government of Orissa had started construction of a fishing jetty, road and bridges inside the Sanctuary. The Central Government, after a review has requested the State Government for immediate stoppage of the constructions and to take further action only when the impact Assessment Study of these constructions is carried out and its implications fully analysed and decision taken.

(d) Yes, Sir.

जंगलों में आग लगने से लकड़ी नष्ट होना

167. **श्री महेश्वर सिंह**: क्या **पर्यावरण और वन** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि हिमाचल प्रदेश, उत्तर प्रदेश के पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों और पूर्वोत्तर राज्यों में जंगलों में आग लगने से करोड़ों रुपये की लकड़ी नष्ट हो जाती है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने ऐसी आग से होने वाली क्षति की रोकथाम हेतु कोई योजना बनाई है ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस योजना के अंतर्गत केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा क्या-क्या प्रबंध किये गये हैं और राज्य सरकारों को क्या-क्या निर्देश दिये गये हैं ; और

(घ) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान जंगलों में आग लगने से प्रत्येक क्षेत्र में वर्ष-वार कितने-कितने मूल्य की लकड़ी नष्ट हुई ?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के राज्यमंत्री (श्री कमल नाथ) : (क) हिमाचल प्रदेश, उत्तर प्रदेश और पूर्वोत्तर क्षेत्र की राज्य सरकारों ने वनों में आग लगने की रिपोर्ट दी है। तथापि, वार्षिक क्षति कुछ ही लाख रुपयों की बताई गई हैं न कि करोड़ों की।

(ख) जी, हां।

(ग) दावानल का पता लगाने, निवारण और नियंत्रण के लिए 1992-93 से "आधुनिक दावानल नियंत्रण पद्धतियां" नामक एक शत प्रतिशत केन्द्रीय प्रायोजित स्कीम शुरू की गई है। वर्ष 1994-95 से इस स्कीम का विस्तार सभी राज्यों और संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों में किया जा रहा है।

(घ) राज्य सरकारों/संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों से सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सदन के पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।